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Identifying the production process of new physics at colliders; symmetric or asymmetric?

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ABSTRACT: We propose a class of kinematic variables, which is a smooth generalization of min-max type mass variables such as the Cambridge- M_{T2} and M_2 , for measuring a mass spectrum of intermediate resonances in a semi-invisibly decaying pair production. While kinematic endpoints of min-max type mass variables are only sensitive to a heavier resonance mass, kinematic endpoints of new variables are sensitive to all masses. These new mass variables can be used to resolve a mass spectrum, so that if the true mass spectrum is asymmetric, then the kinematic endpoints are separate while the endpoints are the same for the symmetric true mass spectrum. We demonstrate the behavior of kinematic endpoint of these new variables in pair production of two-body and three-body decays with one invisible particle.

KEYWORDS: Hadron-Hadron scattering (experiments), Spectroscopy, Particle and resonance production, Beyond Standard Model, Supersymmetry

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1 Introduction

Uncovering resonances hiding behind events with multiple invisible particles at a collider is essential for the discovery of new physics. Events with missing energy are typically favored in popular new physics scenarios with dark matter candidates [1], such as the weak scale supersymmetry [2, 3] and the extra-dimensional model [4]. These new physics scenarios have conserved discrete symmetries, like R -parity and KK -parity, stabilizing the dark matter and leaving, at least, a pair of invisible particles in the new physics event. While the most straightforward approach to discovering intermediate resonances is finding out Breit-Wigner resonance peaks in a reconstructed invariant mass distribution, however, the resonance peak cannot be reconstructed in such new physics events with invisible particles.

Instead of reconstructing resonance peaks, kinematic singularities [5], such as endpoints of kinematic variables [6–12], are often used to find out the new resonances. For semi-invisibly decaying pair productions, kinematic endpoints of *min-max type mass variables*, such as the Cambridge- M_{T2} variable [13–16], M_2 variable [17–20] and their variants [21–23], are well-known to provide relevant information for measuring intermediate resonant particle masses as well as invisible particle masses [15, 24–27]. The min-max type mass variables infer the momentum of invisible particles from a minimization of the *maximum* of two interested resonance masses over physical momenta configurations consistent with transverse momentum conservation. By construction, these mass variables are bounded above by maximum of the true resonance masses [28, 29]. The min-max type mass variables are useful especially when the masses of the two resonant mother particles are identical, i.e. symmetric, because kinematic endpoints of the mass variables saturate this upper bound. Hence, we can adapt the kinematic endpoints to reveal the true resonance mass [30–32].

However, kinematic endpoints of these min-max type mass variables have foibles when the true mass spectrum is asymmetric, i.e. non-identical masses. First, the upper bound only provide information on the heavier resonance mass [28, 29] even though two resonances construct the mass variables. Trying to be assumption independent; indeed, we should identify the lighter resonance mass by kinematics. Second, the kinematic endpoint often saturates the upper bound only when a considerable upstream momentum and a large

total center-of-mass energy \sqrt{s} of colliding partons are supplied [18, 33]. Without such extreme kinematic conditions, the endpoint should be interpreted cautiously. Therefore, we need special treatment for studying asymmetric mass spectrum within a framework of min-max type mass variables. Studies of generalized M_{T2} with a hypothetical ratio of parents masses [33] and subsystem M_{T2} for gluino-squark co-production [34] are examples of the non-trivial treatment.

In this regard, we introduce a broader class of mass variables as a generalization of the min-max type mass variables. Kinematic endpoints of these new variables depend on both masses of intermediate resonances and hence it can constrain two masses much more efficiently. While the mass measurement by the standard M_{T2} endpoint in an asymmetric mass spectrum requires the extreme kinematic conditions that we have mentioned above, our newly introduced method can enhance the sensitivity by reducing the dependency of the extremal kinematic configurations. We demonstrate kinematic endpoints behavior of these new variables in the case of a general asymmetric mass spectrum. After then, We will also compare the key features of our new variables and the other extensions of M_{T2} briefly.

2 Minimized power means

Consider N resonances with masses $\{m_{A_i}\}_{i=1\dots N}$ described in figure 1 for $N = 2$. Since momenta of invisible particles q_i are unknown, we need a guess to construct resonance masses $\{M_{A_i}\}_{i=1\dots N}$. Trial resonance masses are defined by

$$M_{A_i}^2(p_i^\mu, q_i^\mu) = (p_i + q_i)^2 . \quad (2.1)$$

where p_i is a sum of momenta of the visible particles from the resonance A_i . We should keep in mind that, this trial resonance mass is defined ambiguously when some visible particles from different resonances are reconstructed into the same type of objects. For example, in gluino pair production, all visible particles are reconstructed into jets, and correctly assigning each jet to their mother resonance is not an easy problem. In M_{T2} analysis, to reduce a side effect of this combinatorial ambiguity, several methods are proposed [28, 35–39]. Solving the combinatorial ambiguity is not the main focus of this paper, so we will assume that all the visible particles are assigned correctly to their mother resonance.

Then, we need an objective function of the trial resonance masses, to be minimized over the invisible degree of freedoms in the event. As a smooth generalization of the maximum function, which is the objective function to be minimized in the min-max type mass variables, we consider *power means of two resonance masses*. A *power mean* with an exponent p of N arguments $\{x_i\}_{i=1\dots N}$ is defined by

$$\hat{\mu}_p(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i)^p \right)^{\frac{1}{p}} . \quad (2.2)$$

This power mean interpolates the relevant scales monotonically from the maximum of the arguments to the minimum via the Pythagorean means, which are listed in table 1.

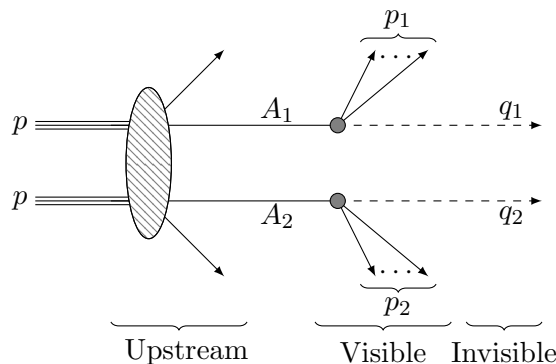


Figure 1. A typical pair production of two resonances A_1 and A_2 having masses m_{A_1} and m_{A_2} decaying semi-invisibly in a collider. p_i is a sum of momenta of the visible particles from the resonance A_i . q_i is a momentum of the invisible particle from the resonance A_i . A system having semi-invisibly decaying N resonances can be considered in a similar fashion.

p	$\hat{\mu}_p$	p	$\hat{\mu}_p$
∞	Maximum	0	Geometric mean
2	Root mean square	-1	Harmonic mean
1	Mean	$-\infty$	Minimum

Table 1. The power mean interpolates functions between a maximum and a minimum function including Pythagorean means as some special cases.

To construct a mass-bounding variable using the power mean, we define a *minimized power mean* by

$$\mu_{p,N}(\tilde{m}) = \min_{\substack{\{\mathbf{q}_i | i=1, \dots, N\} \\ \sum_i q_i^a = \cancel{p}_T^a}} \hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}(p_1^\mu, q_1^\mu(\tilde{m})), \dots, M_{A_N}(p_N^\mu, q_N^\mu(\tilde{m}))) , \quad (2.3)$$

where $a = 1, 2$ denotes an index of transverse component, $q_i^\mu(\tilde{m})$ is a trial momentum of the invisible particle with a spatial momentum \mathbf{q}_i and a trial mass \tilde{m} from the resonance A_i , and \cancel{p}_T^a is a missing transverse momentum. We note that $\mu_{p,N}$ is a function of trial masses \tilde{m} of invisible particles. Trying to be more general, we can set the trial masses of each invisible particle differently like M_{T2} 's case [27, 33, 40]. Nevertheless, we will focus on invisible particles having identical masses, because the typical dark matter motivated new physics scenarios prefer various new particles decaying into the same type of particle, which is the dark matter.

The minimized power mean $\mu_{p,N}$ is an increasing function of p like $\hat{\mu}_p$ in eq. (2.2). For a given event, if $p < q$, then the $\mu_{p,N}$ satisfies the following inequality,

$$\mu_{p,N} \leq \mu_{q,N} . \quad (2.4)$$

At the invisible momentum solution for $\mu_{q,N}$, $\hat{\mu}_p \leq \hat{\mu}_q = \mu_{q,N}$ because $\hat{\mu}_p$ is an increasing function of p . Since $\mu_{p,N}$ is a minimum of $\hat{\mu}_p$, $\mu_{p,N} \leq \hat{\mu}_p$. Therefore, eq. (2.4) holds.

Like the min-max type mass variables, $\mu_{p,N}$ has upper and lower bounds from its method of construction.

$$\mu_{p,N}(m_\chi) \leq \hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, \dots, m_{A_N}) , \quad (2.5)$$

$$\mu_{p,N}(\tilde{m}) \geq \hat{\mu}_p(m_{p_1} + \tilde{m}, \dots, m_{p_N} + \tilde{m}) . \quad (2.6)$$

The upper bound is defined in terms of the intermediate resonance masses only when the test masses of invisible particles are the correct invisible particle masses m_χ . If a kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,N}$ distribution reaches this upper bound, i.e. *saturated*, then we can interpret the kinematic endpoints into the true mass spectrum. In practice, saturation of events to the endpoint depends on physics process and hence a survey is needed.

Now we focus on a pair production of semi-invisibly decaying particles as figure 1, where $N = 2$, then $\mu_{p,2}$ is defined as the following:

$$\mu_{p,2} = \min_{\substack{\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2 \\ q_1^a + q_2^a = \not{p}^a}} \hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2}) . \quad (2.7)$$

Unless the minimum is at a non-differentiable point, the invisible momentum solution satisfies the stationary condition,

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial q_i^z} \hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})|_{q_1^b + q_2^b = \not{p}^b} = 0 , \quad (2.8)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial q_1^a} \hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})|_{q_1^b + q_2^b = \not{p}^b} = 0 , \quad (2.9)$$

For $p \geq 2$, these equations give the unique minimum of $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})$. First, $(M_{A_i})^2$ is a convex function for invisible momenta because its Hessian matrix is positive semi-definite,

$$\det \frac{\partial^2 M_{A_i}^2}{\partial q_i^a \partial q_i^b} = \frac{4\tilde{m}^2 E_{p_i}^2}{E_{q_i}^4} \geq 0 . \quad (2.10)$$

Then $(M_{A_i})^p$ for $p \geq 2$ is a convex function for invisible momenta, and their sum $(M_{A_1})^p + (M_{A_2})^p$, which is $2\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^p$, is also a convex function. Therefore, there is no local minimum, and the stationary condition can be used to find out the minimum of $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})$.

The minimization along the longitudinal direction is unconstrained, and thus two longitudinal component minimization can be performed independently. The condition is

$$\hat{\mu}_p \cdot \frac{M_{A_i}^{p-2} E_{p_i} (\beta_{p_i}^z - \beta_{q_i}^z)}{M_{A_1}^p + M_{A_2}^p} = 0 , \quad (2.11)$$

where $E_{\hat{p}}$ is a energy of a given momentum p and β_p^z is the longitudinal component of velocity of p . eq. (2.11) indicates that longitudinal velocities of p_i and q_i end up being identical after the minimization. Then, each invariant masses M_{A_i} turns into transverse masses with the solutions from the minimization of the longitudinal components of invisible momenta. Since $\mu_{p,2}$ is invariant under independent longitudinal boosts on resonance A_1 and A_2 , we can boost each resonance and their daughter particles to a frame where

all the longitudinal velocities of p_i and q_i vanishes, i.e. $\beta_{p_i}^z = \beta_{q_i}^z = 0$. Since all the longitudinal components on eq. (2.9) vanishes in this frame, using this frame is convenient for further discussion.

The minimization along the transverse direction is constrained by the missing transverse momentum, and hence the extremum condition, eq. (2.9), gives a nontrivial relation. As long as M_{A_i} are differentiable at the minimum, the condition can be written as a mass ratio M_{A_1}/M_{A_2} ,

$$\left(\frac{M_{A_1}}{M_{A_2}}\right)^{p-2} = \frac{E_{p_2}(\beta_{p_2}^a - \beta_{q_2}^a)}{E_{p_1}(\beta_{p_1}^a - \beta_{q_1}^a)}, \quad (2.12)$$

where E_p is an energy of a given momentum p and β_p^a is a transverse component of velocity of p .

More specifically, for $p = 2$ and $\tilde{m} = 0$, eq. (2.12) is a system of simple polynomial equations, and thus, $\mu_{2,2}(0)$ has an analytic solution. Applying the method of Lagrange multipliers on eq. (2.9), we can find out two non-trivial solutions of missing momenta, which are obtained for $\bar{D} \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{q}_1^a &= \frac{1}{E_{p_1}} \left[\frac{\Delta_m + 2p_1 \cdot \Delta}{2\Delta \cdot \Delta} \Delta^a \pm \frac{\sqrt{\bar{D}}}{2} \left(\sigma^a - \frac{\sigma \cdot \Delta}{\Delta \cdot \Delta} \Delta^a \right) \right], \\ \hat{q}_2^a &= \frac{1}{E_{p_2}} \left[\frac{\Delta_m + 2p_2 \cdot \Delta}{2\Delta \cdot \Delta} \Delta^a \pm \frac{\sqrt{\bar{D}}}{2} \left(\sigma^a - \frac{\sigma \cdot \Delta}{\Delta \cdot \Delta} \Delta^a \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{q}_i^a &= \frac{q_i^a}{|q_i|} = \beta_{q_i}^a|_{\tilde{m}=0}, & |q_i| &= \sqrt{(q_i^1)^2 + (q_i^2)^2}, \\ \sigma^a &= p_1^a + p_2^a, & \sigma_m &= m_{p_1}^2 + m_{p_2}^2, \\ \Delta^a &= p_1^a - p_2^a, & \Delta_m &= m_{p_1}^2 - m_{p_2}^2, \\ \bar{D} &= 1 - \frac{4c}{a}, \\ a &= \sigma \cdot \sigma - \frac{(\sigma \cdot \Delta)^2}{\Delta \cdot \Delta}, \\ c &= \frac{\Delta_m^2}{4\Delta \cdot \Delta} + \frac{\Delta_m}{2\Delta \cdot \Delta} \sigma \cdot \Delta - \frac{\sigma_m}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

and $u \cdot v = u^a v_a$. The magnitude $|q_i|$ of transverse-projected invisible momenta q_i^a can be obtained from the transverse momentum conservation, $q_1^a + q_2^a = \not{p}_T^a$. Decomposing q_i^a 's into magnitudes and unit vectors, i.e. $q_i^a = |q_i| \hat{q}_i^a$, the solution is

$$\begin{pmatrix} |q_1| \\ |q_2| \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\hat{q}_1 \times \hat{q}_2} \begin{pmatrix} \not{p}_T \times \hat{q}_2 \\ -\not{p}_T \times \hat{q}_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.14)$$

where $u \times v = \epsilon_{ab} u^a v^b$. If $\bar{D} < 0$ or $|q_i| < 0$, then the solution is not physical. If non-trivial solutions do not exist, or both are not physical, then the minimum is located at one of two non-differentiable points where $q_1^a = 0$ or $q_2^a = 0$. For other cases of p with arbitrary trial masses \tilde{m} of invisible particles, eq. (2.12) is a complicated radical equation.

Analytically solving the minimization is not much illuminating at this moment, we will solve the minimization numerically instead.

In the limit of p to ∞ , by definition, the $\mu_{p,2}$ converges to M_2 variable with minimal constraints, which is identical to the Cambridge- M_{T2} variable

$$\mu_{\infty,2} = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \mu_{p,2} = \min_{\substack{\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2 \\ q_1^a + q_2^a = \mathbf{p}_T^a}} \max(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2}) . \quad (2.15)$$

In this limit, the extremum condition in eq. (2.12) converges to the two types of solutions, the balanced and unbalanced solutions [14, 26, 35]. If the minimum is developed where the differences of velocity $\beta_{p_i}^a - \beta_{q_i}^a$ are non-zero, the limit of eq. (2.12) for $p \rightarrow \infty$ requires that the reconstructed mass ratio M_{A_1}/M_{A_2} should converge to 1. This mass ratio corresponds to the balanced solution of $\mu_{\infty,2}$, i.e. M_{T2} . If one of the differences of velocity approaches to zero at the minimum, the mass ratio does not need to converge to 1 anymore. This momenta configuration is located at a minimum of corresponding M_{A_i} , and it is the unbalanced solution of $\mu_{\infty,2}$.

3 Separation of the kinematic endpoints

To see the behavior of kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$, we generated event samples by a phase-space Monte Carlo program for two-body and three-body decays whose visible particles are assumed to be massless. For understanding behavior of a kinematic endpoint, pure phase-space analysis is enough because matrix elements, which includes effects of spin-correlation and coupling structures, only alter a shape of given distribution. These effects could affect accuracy of measuring the kinematic endpoint, but this systematic error is less relevant in the case of the transverse mass variables, which includes M_T and M_{T2} . Their shape near the endpoint is dominated by phase-space effects [41], such as the number of missing particles and masses of missing particles. Furthermore, the whole shape of M_{T2} distribution also does not depend on spins of each intermediate and final state particles much [42]. Since $\mu_{p,2}$ also relies on transverse mass variables, we expect that pure phase-space based survey would be enough for understanding the kinematic endpoint behavior.

To check dependence of endpoint saturation on a total center-of-mass energy \sqrt{s} of colliding partons, we further assume that \sqrt{s} is fixed for all events. Upstream momentum including initial state radiation is not considered in this analysis. $\mu_{\infty,2}$ is evaluated by a bisection-based method [16, 43]. The other $\mu_{p,2}$'s are calculated by a variable metric method equipped with additional derivative information using MINUIT2 [44]. We further assume that all the visible particles are correctly assigned to their mother resonance, and the true invisible particle masses m_χ are supplied to the trial invisible particle masses \tilde{m} .

Let us consider a threshold production first. In this case, both resonances are in their rest frame and hence the transverse missing energy has limited chance to have a larger value. Since $\mu_{\infty,2}$ tends to have larger value for large missing transverse energy, this is a minimal checkpoint to test saturation of the kinematic endpoint.

Three-body decay is an ideal case for mass measurement because most of $\mu_{p,2}$ distributions have well-saturated kinematic endpoints for both symmetric and asymmetric mass

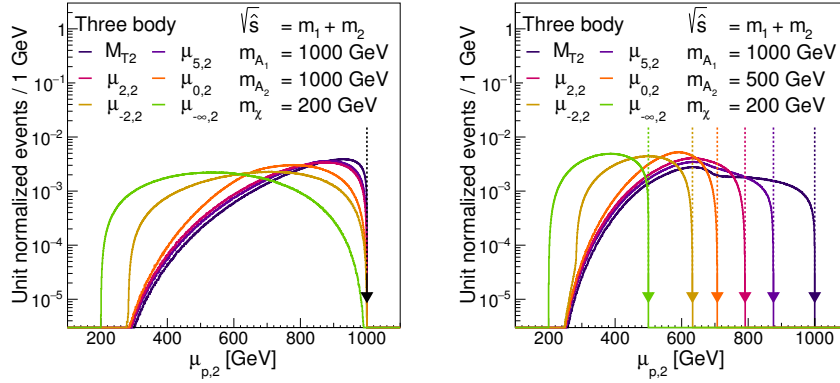


Figure 2. $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution in a three-body decay for a threshold production. The left histogram represents a symmetric mass spectrum, and the right histogram represents an asymmetric mass spectrum. Arrows show the locations of the upper bounds for each distribution.

spectrum if correct trial masses m_χ of invisible particles are supplied. In a three-body decay, m_{p_i} distribution is known to have a kinematic endpoint $m_{p_i}^{\max} = m_{A_i} - m_\chi$. Because $\mu_{p,2}$ is bounded below by eq. (2.6), events near the kinematic endpoint of m_{p_i} have $\mu_{p,2}$ bounded below by $\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1} - m_\chi + \tilde{m}, m_{A_2} - m_\chi + \tilde{m})$. If the trial invisible particle mass \tilde{m} is the true m_χ , then the $\mu_{p,2}$ is bounded below by $\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2})$. Therefore, events near the kinematic endpoint of m_{p_i} distribution have $\mu_{p,2}$ value near $\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2})$, and the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ can be saturated as figure 2. If these kinematic endpoints are not hidden behind backgrounds, then the kinematic endpoints are extractable from $\mu_{p,2}$ distributions.

Fitting the extracted endpoints by the power mean $\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2})$ will reveal the true mass spectrum like figure 3. Each fitted kinematic endpoints constrain mass spectra independently, and the constrained line eventually cross at a single point because the kinematic endpoints over-constrain the true mass spectrum. In a realistic case, the fitting always comes with errors and hence the constrained lines become constrained bands. The intersection of these bands constrains the true mass spectrum then.

Two-body decay case is harder to have a well-saturated endpoint. Because there is no assist from m_{p_i} distributions, only some of the $\mu_{p,2}$ distributions saturates their upper bound as figure 4. For a threshold production, the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{\infty,2}$ distribution is saturated only when the upper bound only when the true mass spectrum is symmetric. If the true mass spectrum is asymmetric, $\mu_{\infty,2}$ distribution does not reach the upper bound. $\mu_{p,2}$ also have the same problem because $\mu_{p,2}$ is increasing function of p as eq. (2.4). If the kinematic endpoint $\mu_{\infty,2}^{\max}$ of $\mu_{\infty,2}$ distribution is smaller than the upper bound of $\mu_{p,2}$, then the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ is not saturated because any of $\mu_{p,2}$ cannot exceed $\mu_{\infty,2}^{\max}$.

Although the kinematic endpoint is not saturated in an asymmetric mass spectrum, there is a difference between the endpoints of the distributions in both mass spectrum. For $p \gtrsim 2$, the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution matches in symmetric mass spectrum while it is not in an asymmetric mass spectrum. Therefore, we can utilize this separated kinematic endpoints to resolve general asymmetric mass spectrum.

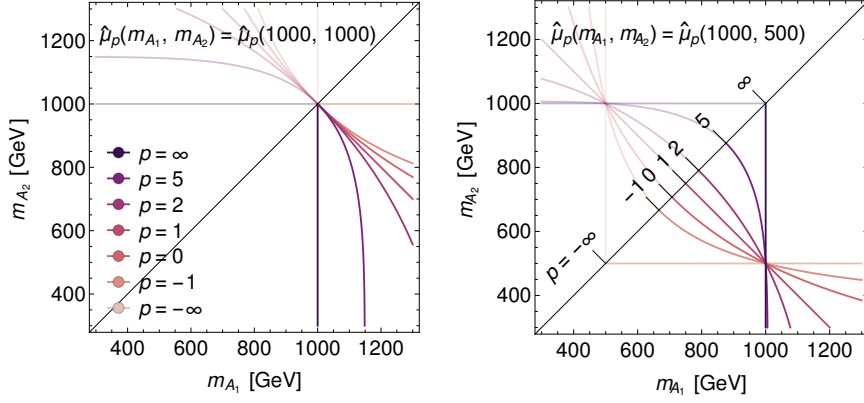


Figure 3. Contours of $\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2})$ on an (m_{A_1}, m_{A_2}) plane such that $\hat{\mu}_p$ takes the value of the corresponding kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$. The left contours represent a symmetric mass spectrum, and the right contours represent an asymmetric mass spectrum. Because these contours over-constrain mass spectra, their intersection eventually crosses the true mass spectrum.

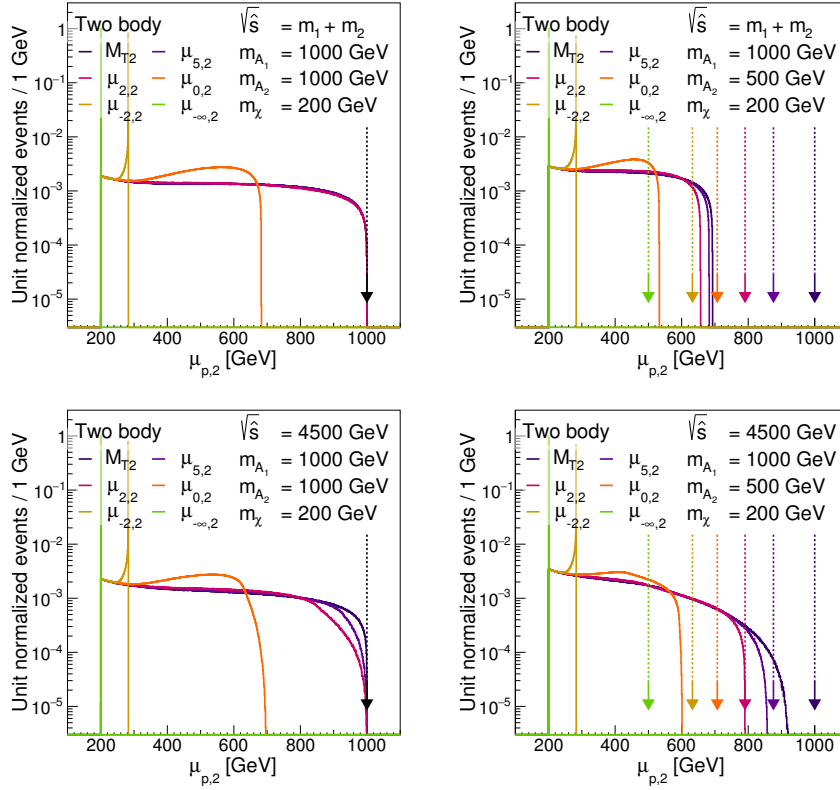


Figure 4. $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution in a two-body decay. for a threshold production. The left histograms represent a symmetric mass spectrum and the right histograms represent an asymmetric mass spectrum. The upper histogram are for a threshold production, and the lower histograms for an energetic production. Arrows show the locations of the upper bounds for each distribution.

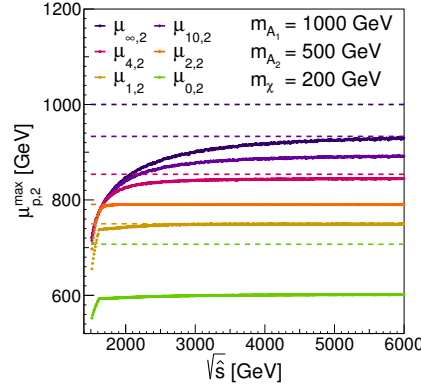


Figure 5. Total center-of-mass energy $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ of colliding partons dependence of the maximum point $\mu_{p,2}^{\max}$ of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution in a two-body decay. The dashed line represents the upper bound of the corresponding $\mu_{p,2}$. For $m_{A_1} = 1000$ GeV and $m_{A_2} = 500$ GeV, as soon as M_{T2} exceed the upper bound of $\mu_{2,2}$, $\mu_{2,2}$ have a saturated kinematic endpoint.

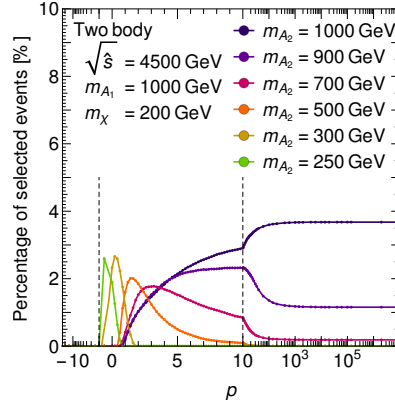


Figure 6. Percentage of events having $\mu_{p,2}$ at least 90% of the upper bound value of corresponding $\mu_{p,2}$ in a two-body decay is drawn for various mass spectra. For p between -1 and 10, the domain is drawn in linear scale, and other domains are drawn in log scale. In general, $\mu_{p,2}$ which shows best endpoint saturation is mass spectrum dependent.

This feature is enhanced when we consider a pair production at higher energy. For an asymmetric pair production at some large $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$, figure 4 shows some $\mu_{p,2}$ saturates its upper bound. In particular, for $m_{A_1} = 1000$ GeV, $m_{A_2} = 500$ GeV and $m_{\chi} = 200$ GeV, $\mu_{2,2}$ shows a good saturation. To check $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ dependence of the saturation of the kinematic endpoints for this mass spectrum, we draw $\mu_{p,2}^{\max}$ versus $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ in figure 5. We can observe that there exist some $\mu_{p,2}$ such that its kinematic endpoint is saturated as soon as $\mu_{\infty,2}^{\max}$ exceed the upper bound of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution. Once some $\mu_{p,2}$ has the saturated kinematic endpoint, the kinematic endpoint does not change when we consider higher $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ while the kinematic endpoint of other $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution has more chance to have larger $\mu_{p,2}$ value. Therefore, the separated kinematic endpoint is a generic feature of an asymmetric mass spectrum.

A particular power p of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution which saturates its upper bound is mass spectrum dependent. Figure 6 shows there are specific $\mu_{p,2}$'s having saturated kinematic endpoints. The reason the power p changes is that only some p supports mass ratio in eq. (2.12) compatible to the true mass spectrum for near endpoint events. Suppose $\mu_{p,2}$ can saturate the upper bound, i.e. there exist some events whose $\mu_{p,2}$ solution satisfy

$$\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2}) = \hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2}) \quad (3.1)$$

Let $M_{A_1}/M_{A_2} = c m_{A_1}/m_{A_2}$ where c is a positive constant. Then above equation can be written as a mass ratio between the trial resonance mass M_{A_i} and the true resonance mass m_{A_i} .

$$\frac{M_{A_1}}{m_{A_1}} = \frac{\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2})}{\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, c^{-1}m_{A_2})}, \quad \frac{M_{A_2}}{m_{A_2}} = \frac{\hat{\mu}_p(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2})}{\hat{\mu}_p(c m_{A_1}, m_{A_2})} \quad (3.2)$$

Unless $c = 1$, $M_{A_1} \neq m_{A_1}$ and $M_{A_2} \neq m_{A_2}$, and hence invisible momenta q_i of this $\mu_{p,2}$ solution are different to the true invisible momenta. Those two q_i configurations are two distinct minima of $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})$ then. Recall that $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^p$ is a convex function for $p \geq 2$ as eq. (2.10), and it is a strictly convex function when $\tilde{m} \neq 0$. If $m_\chi \neq 0$, then having multiple minima is a contradiction because a strictly convex function does not admit multiple minima. Let $m_\chi = 0$. Then a determinant of Hessian matrix of $(M_{A_i})^p$ is

$$\det \frac{\partial^2 (M_{A_i})^p}{\partial q_i^a \partial q_i^b} = \frac{8p^2(p-2)(M_{A_i})^{2p-6} E_{p_i} (E_{p_i} - (p_i \cdot \hat{q}_i))^2}{E_{q_i}}. \quad (3.3)$$

If $p > 2$ and one of the m_{p_i} is nonzero, then the determinant of Hessian matrix of $(M_{A_i})^2$ is positive definite, $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^p$ is strictly convex function, and it is a contradiction. If both $m_{p_i} = 0$, the determinant can be zero when p_i and q_i are heading the same direction, i.e. $\hat{p}_i = \hat{q}_i$. If this direction of M_{A_1} and M_{A_2} overlap, then $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^p$ is just convex on the intersection and it can admit multiple minima. However, $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^p = 0$ along this line and hence such events cannot locate near the upper bound. For $p = 2$, the determinant is zero, and hence, $\hat{\mu}_2(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^2$ is not a strictly convex function. The previous argument is not applicable in this case, but we can argue the existence of multiple solutions easily because $M_{A_i}^2$ is a linear function in $|q_i|$.

$$M_{A_i}^2 = m_{p_i}^2 + |q_i|(E_{p_i} - p_i \cdot \hat{q}_i). \quad (3.4)$$

When $m_{p_i} = 0$, there is flat direction, $\hat{p}_i = \hat{q}_i$. Again, multiple minima can be found if this direction is aligned, but such events cannot locate near the kinematic endpoint. In this case, there is another type of multiple minima located between a line between $q_1^a = 0$ and $q_1^a = \not{p}_T^a$ on q_i space. If slopes of $M_{A_1}^2$ and $M_{A_2}^2$ on the line exactly cancel out, then $\hat{\mu}_2(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^2$ is flat along this line, and this line can be multiple minima. The condition can be written by

$$(p_1 + p_2) \cdot \hat{\not{p}}_T = E_{p_1} - E_{p_2} \quad (3.5)$$

Events satisfying above condition are the only cases where $\hat{\mu}_2(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^2$ admit multiple minima.

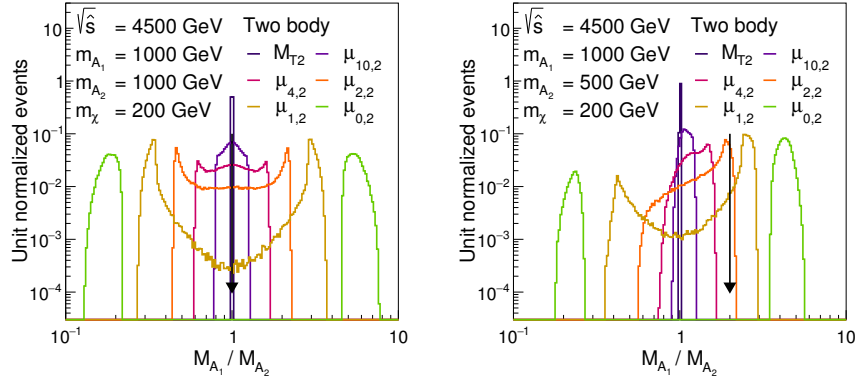


Figure 7. The ratio of reconstructed masses for near endpoint events in a two-body decay. We select events having the top 10% mass value. Arrows on each plot point $\frac{m_1}{m_2}$. By comparing with figure 6, the number of events near the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution having correctly reconstructed mass ratio and saturation of the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ have a positive correlation.

Therefore, at least for $p > 2$ and $p = 2$ except some special situations, we can conclude if the mass ratio in eq. (2.12) does not support the true mass spectrum, then $\mu_{p,2}$ cannot saturate the upper bound. We draw reconstructed mass ratio of events near the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution in figure 7. By comparing figure 6 and figure 7, we can see a correlation between the saturation of the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ and number of events near the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution, which have correctly reconstructed mass ratio.

Furthermore, the strict convexity of $\hat{\mu}_p(M_{A_1}, M_{A_2})^p$ tells us that events near the saturated kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ can be used for determination of new particle properties. These events have an invisible momenta solution of the corresponding $\mu_{p,2}$ approximately identical to the true invisible momenta. The reason is that the strict convexity makes the solution unique, and thus, the true momenta are the solution when the event have the $\mu_{p,2}$ value of saturated kinematic endpoint. Like M_{T2} -assisted on-shell reconstruction [45–47], events near the saturated kinematic endpoint can be used for measuring the new particle properties.

The existence of some $\mu_{p,2}$ having saturated kinematic endpoint without the extreme kinematic conditions makes $\mu_{p,2}$ useful for mass measurement. Once a relevant $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ is supplied, $\mu_{p,2}$ having saturated kinematic endpoint have $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ and the upstream momentum independent endpoint $\mu_{p,2}^{\max}$ of $\mu_{p,2}$ distribution, but other endpoints of $\mu_{p,2}$ distributions deviates toward their kinematic endpoints. Hence, we expect such separation of kinematic endpoints in an asymmetric mass spectrum can be observed independently to the $\sqrt{\hat{s}}$ and the upstream momentum. However, we do not know at a glance whether the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ is saturated when the true mass spectrum is asymmetric, and we cannot just pick a certain $\mu_{p,2}$ to use it for mass measurement. Instead, for an asymmetric mass spectrum, combined analysis of $\mu_{p,2}$ distributions than analysis of M_{T2} distribution only is expected to be more efficient for mass measurement.

Whether all of the $\mu_{p,2}$ have saturated kinematic endpoint or not, the kinematic endpoints of $\mu_{p,2}$'s are expected to have enhanced resolving power for mass spectroscopy. To

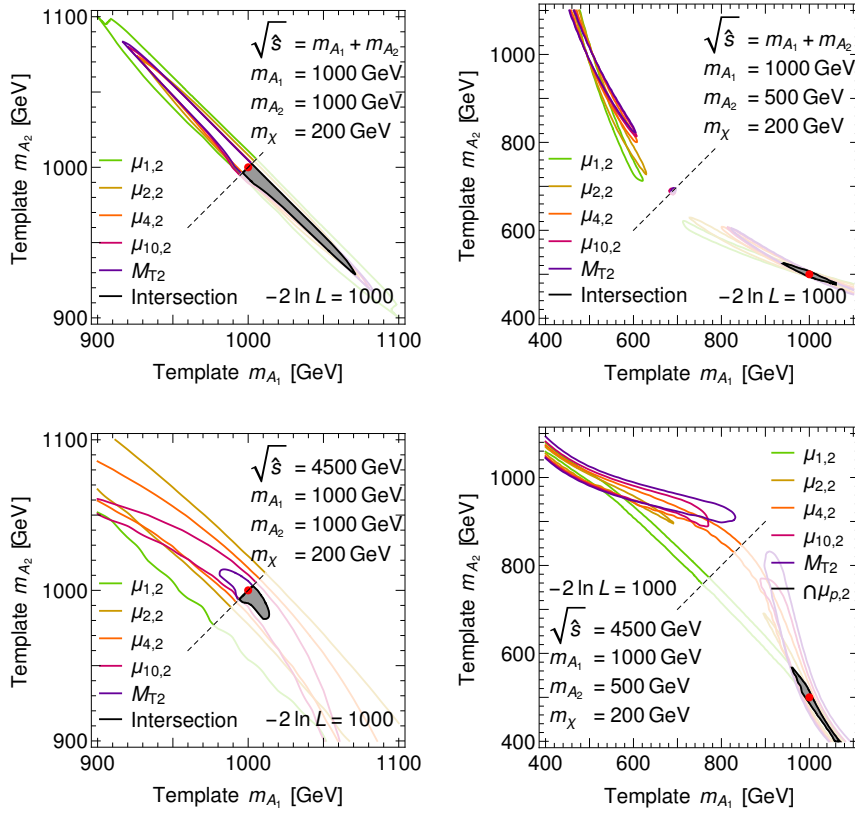


Figure 8. Contours of Poisson likelihood between templates and a reference sample in a two-body decay. We generated 1,000,000 events for each template and we draw contours of $-2 \ln L = 1000$. We compared events having at least 90% of the $\mu_{p,2}$ value of $\mu_{p,2}^{\max}$ on a template. In the case of an asymmetric mass spectrum, the combination of $\mu_{p,2}$ shows better sensitivity in proving their masses than using M_{T2} only.

estimate the resolving power of mass spectrum in two-body decay, we draw negative log likelihood contours, figure 8, using near maximal regions of $\mu_{p,2}$ distributions for a reference mass spectrum and other template mass spectrum. To ignore a sampling fluctuation, we generated a large number of events, 1,000,000 events, for each template and we draw contours of large negative log likelihood value, $-2 \ln L = 1000$. We compared events having at least 90% of $\mu_{p,2}$ value of $\mu_{p,2}^{\max}$ on a template. In the case of symmetric mass spectrum, M_{T2} only analysis works well because there are many events near the kinematic endpoints. Templates with asymmetric mass spectrum typically have less saturated kinematic endpoint of M_{T2} and hence likelihood can distinguish them by difference of number of events near the kinematic endpoint. In the case of asymmetric mass spectrum, the similar argument holds for $\mu_{p,2}$. However, we do not know which $\mu_{p,2}$ has a saturated kinematic endpoint, and hence, the intersection of likelihood contours of several $\mu_{p,2}$'s constrains mass spectrum better than a single likelihood contour of $\mu_{p,2}$.

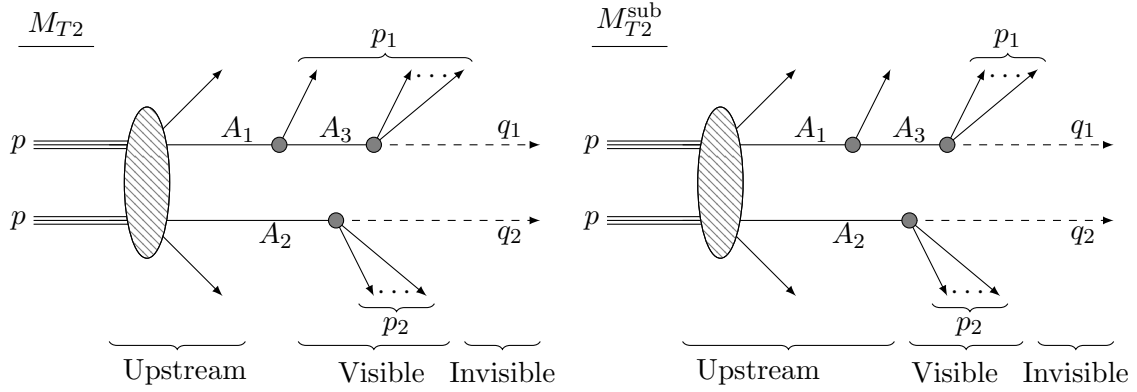


Figure 9. A pair production of two resonances A_1 and A_2 having masses m_{A_1} and m_{A_2} decaying semi-invisibly in a collider. A_1 is decaying to a visible particle and A_3 first, and after then A_3 decays semi-invisibly. In M_{T2} , we will consider all visible particle produced from decay of A_1 and A_2 . While in M_{T2}^{sub} , we discard the visible particle produced from decay of A_1 .

4 Comparison to other extensions of M_{T2}

While in the introduction, we mentioned two non-trivial extensions of M_{T2} for asymmetric parent masses, such as M_{T2} with a ratio of parents masses [33] and subsystem M_{T2} [34]. These extensions inherit property of M_{T2} . Hence, those mass variables use their kinematic endpoints for identifying mass spectrum, and they inherit the weak points of M_{T2} . We will review those methods and their key points briefly.

Subsystem M_{T2} for an asymmetric mass spectrum. If there is a sub-resonance inside of a decay chain of heavier resonance, we can utilize the sub-resonance for identifying mass of the lighter resonance. Let us consider a pair production of A_1 and A_2 while A_1 has a sub-resonance A_3 in its decay chain. In this case, we can think two kinds of M_{T2} . One is M_{T2} constructed from A_1 and A_2 , and the other is M_{T2} constructed from the subsystem A_3 and A_2 . The second one is called *subsystem M_{T2}* [34], and we denote it as M_{T2}^{sub} . We illustrate systems where each M_{T2} considers in figure 9. Those two M_{T2} 's have upper bounds,

$$M_{T2}(m_\chi) \leq \max(m_{A_1}, m_{A_2}) \quad (4.1)$$

$$M_{T2}^{\text{sub}}(m_\chi) \leq \max(m_{A_2}, m_{A_3}) \quad (4.2)$$

If these upper bounds are saturated, then we can identify at least two of resonance masses in this process.

An example for this event topology is a gluino-squark coproduction with mass hierarchy $m_{\tilde{q}} > m_{\tilde{g}}$ [34]. In this event topology, A_1 is a squark \tilde{q} , and A_2 and A_3 are gluinos \tilde{g} . We assume that the squark decays to a quark q and a gluino \tilde{g} , and two gluinos decay to a quark-antiquark pair and a gluon. Then the upper bound of M_{T2} and M_{T2}^{sub} reveals masses

of squark $m_{\tilde{q}}$ and gluino $m_{\tilde{g}}$.

$$M_{T2}(m_\chi) \leq \max(m_{\tilde{q}}, m_{\tilde{g}}) = m_{\tilde{q}} \quad (4.3)$$

$$M_{T2}^{\text{sub}}(m_\chi) \leq \max(m_{\tilde{g}}, m_{\tilde{g}}) = m_{\tilde{g}} \quad (4.4)$$

These upper bounds are saturated, and we can use the endpoints for mass measurement [34].

One difficulty of this method is that we need to identify visible particles produced in the decay of A_1 to clarify the subsystem A_2 and A_3 . While in the gluino-squark coproduction, if the mass gap $m_{\tilde{q}} - m_{\tilde{g}}$ is large enough, the decay of \tilde{q} produce a high p_T quark q . Hence, we can discard a high p_T jet, and we can evaluate M_{T2}^{sub} without a combinatorial ambiguity.

Moreover, there would be an ambiguity about the relation between m_{A_2} and m_{A_3} without a model assumption, because the kinematic endpoint only says $\max(m_{A_2}, m_{A_3})$. The gluinos are decaying to three-body, and hence, M_{T2}^{sub} saturates its upper bound also when $m_{A_2} \neq m_{A_3}$ as figure 2. To resolve this problem, we can look for kinematic endpoints of invariant masses of two jets produced by A_2 or A_3 , or we can look for the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ to solve this ambiguity, especially when A_2 and A_3 are decaying to two-body.

M_{T2} with mass ratio. Instead of finding a subsystem, we can alter the definition of M_{T2} to make it more suitable for measuring non-identical masses of parents particle. One reason why M_{T2} works well with a symmetric mass spectrum is that its implicit constraint, $M_{A_1} = M_{A_2}$, is compatible with the true mass spectrum. We can modify this constraint by weighting M_{A_i} by a hypothetical mass ratio $\tilde{m}_{A_2}/\tilde{m}_{A_1}$ of particles A_1 and A_2 . This procedure suggests a generalized M_{T2} [33],

$$M_{T2}(\tilde{m}; \tilde{m}_{A_1}/\tilde{m}_{A_2}) = \min_{\substack{\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2 \\ q_1^a + q_2^a = \not{p}_T^a}} \max \left(\sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}_{A_2}}{\tilde{m}_{A_1}}} M_{A_1}(p_1^\mu, q_1^\mu(\tilde{m})), \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}_{A_1}}{\tilde{m}_{A_2}}} M_{A_2}(p_2^\mu, q_2^\mu(\tilde{m})) \right). \quad (4.5)$$

We can replace each M_{A_i} to the transverse mass M_{T,A_i} after the minimization on longitudinal components. Since a balanced solution of this M_{T2} is located where arguments of the maximum function are identical, we have an implicit constraint,

$$\frac{M_{A_1}}{\tilde{m}_{A_1}} = \frac{M_{A_2}}{\tilde{m}_{A_2}}. \quad (4.6)$$

Therefore, if the true mass spectrum is compatible to the hypothetical mass ratio $\tilde{m}_{A_1}/\tilde{m}_{A_2}$, then we expect that this generalized M_{T2} works better than the usual M_{T2} .

By its method of construction, this generalized M_{T2} has upper and lower bounds,

$$M_{T2}(m_\chi; m_{A_2}/m_{A_1}) \leq \sqrt{m_{A_1} m_{A_2}}, \quad (4.7)$$

$$M_{T2}(m_\chi; \tilde{m}_{A_2}/\tilde{m}_{A_1}) \leq \max \left(\sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}_{A_2}}{\tilde{m}_{A_1}}} m_{A_1}, \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}_{A_1}}{\tilde{m}_{A_2}}} m_{A_2} \right), \quad (4.8)$$

$$M_{T2}(\tilde{m}; \tilde{m}_{A_2}/\tilde{m}_{A_1}) \geq \max \left(\sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}_{A_2}}{\tilde{m}_{A_1}}} (m_{p_1} + \tilde{m}), \sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}_{A_1}}{\tilde{m}_{A_2}}} (m_{p_2} + \tilde{m}) \right), \quad (4.9)$$

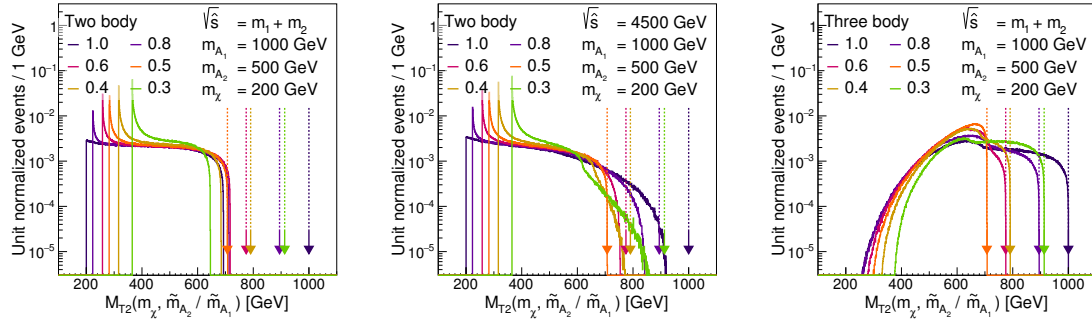


Figure 10. Mass-ratio weighted M_{T2} distribution in two-body decay and three-body decay for a threshold production. Arrows show the locations of the upper bounds for each distribution. Legends on each line indicate mass ratios $\tilde{m}_{A2}/\tilde{m}_{A1}$. In the case of two-body decay, the upper bound is saturated only when the mass ratio is the true mass ratio.

Because of similar reasoning in section 3, we expect that these upper bounds are saturated when the implicit constraint in eq. (4.6) is compatible to the true mass spectrum. In the three-body decay case, these upper bound can saturate upper bounds regardless of the hypothetical mass ratio $\tilde{m}_{A2}/\tilde{m}_{A1}$, because the lower bound pushes forward M_{T2} value to the upper bound. We illustrate this endpoint behavior in figure 10.

The strong point of this method is that extreme kinematic conditions are not required if we used a correct mass ratio. As we illustrated in figure 4, if we are going to measure mass spectrum by the kinematic endpoints, not by comparing to templates, then the usual M_{T2} requires extreme kinematic conditions, and $\mu_{p,2}$ requires some moderate kinematic conditions. If one can find out the true mass ratio m_{A2}/m_{A1} , then this generalized M_{T2} is a good method for mass measurement.

However, the mass ratio m_{A2}/m_{A1} is unknown at the beginning, and hence, we should interpret the kinematic endpoint cautiously. As we illustrated in figure 10, using wrong $\tilde{m}_{A2}/\tilde{m}_{A1}$ can give us a wrong conclusion because the kinematic endpoint does not reach the upper bound especially in two-body decay case. To use this generalized M_{T2} for mass measurement, choosing a correct $\tilde{m}_{A2}/\tilde{m}_{A1}$ is very important. We may leave this problem by comparing data to templates as mentioned in [33] at a cost of model-dependent interpretation of the data. Without a template or a model assumption, we cannot interpret the kinematic endpoint of the generalized M_{T2} directly, because we don't know that used $\tilde{m}_{A2}/\tilde{m}_{A1}$ is correct or not. Meanwhile, the kinematic endpoints of $\mu_{p,2}$'s at least tell us that the true mass spectrum is symmetric or asymmetric.

5 Conclusions

In this work, we have developed new kinematic variables $\mu_{p,2}$, which is a smooth generalization of M_{T2} and M_2 variable, for measuring masses of pair-produced particles decaying semi-invisibly. $\mu_{p,2}$'s have distinctive kinematic endpoints for symmetric and asymmetric mass spectrum, and it can be used for surveying the true mass spectrum. If the true mass spectrum is asymmetric, $\mu_{p,2}$'s have separated kinematic endpoints, whereas if the true

mass spectrum is symmetric, $\mu_{p,2}$'s share common kinematic endpoints. While M_{T2} analysis has several foibles, which are only larger resonance mass dependence of the upper bound and weak saturation of kinematic endpoint when the true mass spectrum is asymmetric, combined analysis of $\mu_{p,2}$ constrain the true mass spectrum better. We expect $\mu_{p,2}$ is particularly useful for mass determination of new physics particles when underlying physics is undetermined, such as slepton pair production and chargino-neutralino co-production. Although saturation of the kinematic endpoints of $\mu_{p,2}$'s depends on event topology, likelihood analysis shows that mass measurement by $\mu_{p,2}$ can be promising. We further expect there should be a kinematic method for quantifying asymmetric true mass spectrum in the case that only some of $\mu_{p,2}$'s have saturated kinematic endpoints, and further study is ongoing [48]. While in this paper, an effect of wrong invisible particle mass is not discussed and it is not ignorable in typical new physics scenarios. Further study on the relationship between trial invisible particle mass and the kinematic endpoint of $\mu_{p,2}$ is needed.

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